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TOM LYTHGOE, CHAIR

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KEN WEBER

**PROCEEDING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF MONTANA
March 21, 2006**

Present: Commissioners Lythgoe, Notbohm and Weber; Tom Harrington and Tom Jenkin, *Metal Mines Grant Committee*; Jeff Miller, John Wilkinson and Gene Lewwer, *RMDC*; Mike Rupert, *Boyd Andrew*; Craig Doolittle, *Jefferson County Sheriff*; Bonnie Ramey, *Jefferson County Clerk & Recorder*

CALENDAR REVIEW

- 3/23 Meeting with the Health Board - 6:30
Meeting with Golden Triangle - Helena - 7:00
- 3/24 Meeting with the Legislative Council in regards to the Meth Treatment Center in Boulder
- Rm 102 of the Capital - 9:00
- 3/27 Meeting with Golden Triangle - Great Falls - 10:00
- 3/30 Meeting with Beaverhead - Deerlodge in reference to further discussion of roads
Meeting with Helena National Forest
- 3/31 Meeting with SCAA - Helena - 10:00

COMMISSION REPORTS

None

ITEMS FOR COMMISSIONERS ACTION OR REVIEW

JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES

Bonnie Ramey, Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder, addressed the board in regards to the issue of jurisdictional boundaries that had recently come to her attention. Mrs. Ramey is still working with City of Boulder Officials to help with budgetary and financial matters and the question of the City of Boulder Planning and Zoning came up. She stated that the county has never set up jurisdictional boundaries. This means that if the city so chose they could expand up to five miles beyond current city limits. City of Boulder has no current plans of expanding, however this could potentially be a problem county wide. Montana City, Clancy, Jefferson City and Whitehall could all continue to grow unchecked without boundaries. This also means that Helena could potentially continue to grow unchecked into our county.

Commissioner Notbohm asked what kind of authority this would allow us. And Mrs. Ramey replied that this would allow the county to put boundaries into place that would stop cities from

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further expansion into areas that the county would like to retain.

Commissioner Lythgoe requested that this issue be placed on the April 4th Agenda so the public would have plenty of time to respond and make arrangements to attend if they so wish.

METAL MINES GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Tom Harrington with the Metal Mines Grant Committee addressed the Commission to present the committee's recommendations for the Metal Mines Grants. His first recommendation is for the Whitehall Ambulance to go toward the purchase of an Auto Pulse, which is an automated cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) machine. This piece of equipment is valuable as it can long outlast the efforts of the human rescuer in a CPR situation. This is critical for long transports. The second piece of equipment is a Zoll Defibrillator. This is a monitoring machine that takes blood pressure, pulse oximetry, and when needed is both a manual and automatic defibrillating machine. Tom stated that both of these machines will greatly improve Whitehall Ambulances ability to better serve the community. He also was satisfied with the way the grant was put together. They addressed all questions the committee had. The amount requested by the Whitehall ambulance is \$8,975.00. This amount is to be matched by St. James Community Healthcare or in the event that St. James does not agree then the \$8,975.00 will be matched out of the Whitehall Ambulance Trust Fund.

The second recommendation was for the Whitehall Skate Park. Mr. Harrington stated that the information in the packet was adequate. The budget worksheet was somewhat confusing but upon discussion of the issues most of the questions that the committee had were cleared up. He recommended that the Whitehall Skate Park be awarded grant money in the amount of \$28,500.00 with the contingencies that the Whitehall Skate Park Committee finalize the location of the park by getting a valid lease in place with the required agencies (MRL, Town of Whitehall, DOT). Also finalize an agreement with the Town of Whitehall and the Skate Park Organization that identifies facility maintenance responsibilities, insurance responsibilities, and who will be responsible for enforcement of the facility rules. And finally that grant funds should be awarded to support concrete, rebar, engineering and equipment purchases.

The third recommendation was for the Whitehall School for the construction of a climbing wall. The grant provided a good narrative of potential economic development . The request is a unique expansion of opportunities that will be available in Whitehall and will provide a special draw to the area. The Metal Mines Committee recommends that the amount requested, \$3,475.00, be awarded to the Whitehall School for the project. This is contingent upon getting a letter or evidence of approval for the project from either the school board or school leadership.

Last, Pool Pals, wrote a letter to the Metal Mines Grant Committee requesting consideration for any additional support that may be available to support the pool project. Pool Pals currently has a grant award of \$65,376.00 that is in its third year and was extended until October of 2006. They are in the process of reviewing the bids and cost estimates are \$299,000.00 which is over the \$200,000.00 available with current resources (FWP grant, Metal Mines and Cash). They are working with a local bank to finance the other \$100,000.00.

Commissioner Weber stated that it had been discussed at one of the Metal Mines meetings that the Pool Pals should apply for a Metal Mines loan to help with the run over costs.

Mr. Harrington agreed.

Commissioner Lythgoe asked if there were any more questions or statements that the commissioners wanted to present. Commissioner Weber stated that he wanted it known that other entities would benefit from the climbing wall at the Whitehall School. People such as the Elkhorn Search and Rescue team. Tom Jenkin also stated that with the climbing wall it was being engineered in such a way that as time went by and the need arose the wall could be added onto. Commissioner Weber also stated that the wall would be available to adult education classes.

Commissioner Weber moved that the board take the Metal Mines recommendations for grant funds and award Whitehall Ambulance \$8,975.00, Whitehall Skate Park \$28,500.00 and Whitehall School \$3,475.00 with the contingencies recommended by the Metal Mines Committee, and that the grant be opened again in July. Commissioner Lythgoe seconded. Motion carried.

RMDC OVERVIEW OF PLAN TO CREATE A CRISIS MENTAL HEALTH RESPONSE SYSTEM

John Wilkinson with Rocky Mountain Development Council thanked the commission for their time and respectfully turned their presentation over to Gene Lewwer.

Gene Lewwer stated that RMDC decided to go through a formal RFP process to try to reduce the use of Warm Springs and get the hospitals involved in trying to reorganize the crisis mental health system. Hospitals have gotten out of the mental health business almost completely because they are losing money and many of their workers are spending precious time with these individuals. Warm Springs is carrying much of the patient load and many times there are people taken there for treatment that would be better served in a community situation. This would also help law enforcement as they are very limited to where and who they can take some of these individuals that are in crisis.

Commissioner Lythgoe asked if St. Pete's Hospital was involved or even interested in the discussions of a Crisis Mental Health Response System. Mr. Lewwer stated that he felt that they were open to discussions with regards to the placement of a treatment center. However the hospital is not interested in providing these services themselves. He stated that there are so many federal requirements that the hospital has to provide so many different treatments. Due to these laws St. Pete's had to make the decision to shut down the psychiatric ward. Commissioner Weber asked if this would be a tri-county endeavor? Mr. Lewwer stated that it very well may be however discussions to the fact had to be entered into with the other counties. Commissioner Lythgoe asked if Golden Triangle was involved in any way. Mr. Lewwer stated that he was very encouraged by Golden Triangle's response and reaction to discussions of a mental health response system. Commissioner Lythgoe asked if Boyd Andrew was open to aid in the system. Mr. Lewwer stated that they are willing to talk about a mental health response system in some

ways, however they are in the same boat that places like St. Pete's are in. Money is a problem and it comes down to what the State is willing to provide for and what they are not. He stated that there is a funding gap. He stated that there will need to be talks of funding at the state and federal level. They are already on track with a grant application to address the four levels of the mental health response system. The grants are due by early May and should help to cover beds, planning, and a professional response team. Right now the Montana Mental Health System is the judicial system. This is taking up a lot of law enforcement time that could be better spent elsewhere and we also may find a way to help the person in crisis much more thoroughly.

John Wilkinson stated that to make this work we will have to think about things very differently in the future. To make this work we will need to be inclusive with city, state, county and federal groups. We will all have to work together like never before. We need to develop a regional system with government, law enforcement and hospitals. We need coverage 24/7. We need to work in partnership with Golden Triangle to develop a peer support program. Facilities need to be constructed. The state has to work with us to get this system and the needs of the system into place.

JEFFERSON COUNTY SLEUTH GRANT

Sheriff Craig Doolittle addressed the commissioners in regards to upgrading the current records management system. He stated that a couple of years ago the county was unable to submit reports to the State and keep accurate records of crimes. When the county purchased the Sleuth system we were able to keep more accurate records, and submit reports that enabled the county to qualify for different programs and funding. Even with the purchases of the Sleuth updates we have now outlived the current system. Sleuth is now installing its 9.0 version. Sheriff Doolittle stated that he had applied for and been awarded a grant with Crime Control in the amount of \$29,461.00. He stated that he had \$22,096.00 in his budget and respectfully requested that the commission pay out \$7,365.00 so that he could match the grant figures.

Commissioner Weber asked what the ramifications would be if the system was not upgraded. Sheriff Doolittle stated that we would not qualify for many grants and would eventually slip back to a time when they would be unable to submit reports. He stated that they may be able to report for awhile but it will not last long. He also stated that the new system will upgrade to the MDT (Mobile Data Terminal). This is a system that will be in all of the patrol vehicles. They will be allowed to access reports, and information on individuals while on a call or traffic stop. He stated that basically we will be unable to keep up with the times and it comes down to \$29,461.00 now or when we are willing to upgrade later we very well may be looking at \$100,000.00.

Commissioner Weber then asked if we do not accept the grant will we be able to secure it again at a later time. Sheriff Doolittle stated that we will never be able to secure this grant again. Commissioner Notbohm asked if we would truly avoid a larger cost later. Sheriff Doolittle stated that yes it would. Commissioner Lythgoe asked how long the upgrade would be good for. Sheriff Doolittle stated that this is a nationwide system. When we first started with the Sleuth system we were at a 6.0, we are now currently at 8.5. All of these upgrades have been provided by the system. We would be eligible for all the upgrades to the new system.

Commissioner Weber moved that the board approve the \$7,365.00 from PILT to be used as a 25% match for the Sleuth upgrade grant. Commissioner Notbohm seconded. Motion carried.

Sheriff Doolittle then stated that he did have another grant match request for digital trunked radios for all of the fire trucks. However not all of the needed information has been gathered and he will request to be back on the agenda at a later date to present all of the information.

BOULDER FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN FUNDS FOR PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT

The Boulder Fire Department submitted a request that the commission help pay for parts that would go with the Departments Jaws of Life. In a letter submitted to the commission Chief Larry Jones stated that after budget cuts they did not have the funds to purchase the much needed accessories. Commissioner Lythgoe questioned why the City Fire Department had come to the County Commissioners, and Commissioner Weber stated that it was because the Boulder Fire Department has the only Rescue and Extrication truck in our local area and that they respond on a regular basis to county calls requiring this equipment. There was no one from the Boulder Fire Department present at the meeting so Commissioner Lythgoe tabled discussions on the request until someone from the Fire Department could attend and further explain what the equipment is and does.

JEFF MILLER REQUESTED TO ADDRESS THE BOARD WITH REGARDS TO BIG BOULDER APARTMENTS

Jeff Miller, RMDC, stated that the Big Boulder Apartments were built in the 1970's. There have been little to no improvements made to the building since it was constructed. RMDC would like to work with Jefferson County to get the housing in the apartments up to code. They would like to do thorough testing of the building which would mean knocking holes into walls to better know the condition of the structure.

Commissioner Weber asked if we take this task on would it tie up the county for grants for the year. Jeff Miller stated that it would not. Commissioner Notbohm asked what would happen if there was not enough money. Jeff Miller stated that they were trying to secure block management funding. We will not know if we do not have the funds until later when we take a closer look at the actual condition of the building. Commissioner Lythgoe asked how old the projects were. Jeff Miller responded by saying that they were old enough that they may possibly be environmentally unsafe. Commissioner Weber asked how long the planning process would take. Jeff Miller stated that it would take a couple of months once they learned if they secured the grant. Commissioner Lythgoe asked what would happen if they were determined unsalvageable. Jeff Miller stated that the engineers had taken a preliminary look at the building and did believe that they could save the building. However it will take a lot to get them up to code. Commissioner Lythgoe asked if the grant would cover the cost of new construction. Jeff Miller stated that it would not. Commissioner Lythgoe requested that further discussions be put onto the April 4th Agenda.

MIKE RUPERT REPORTING ON THE METH TREATMENT CENTER IN BOULDER

Mike Rupert with Boyd Andrew addressed the commission and stated that they had received a

letter to best their last bid. The first proposal was for 60 female beds. They will fund only 40 female beds. They want Boyd Andrew to submit a proposal on 80 male beds in addition to the 40 female. He stated that to do this site plans would have to be changed. The female would have to be on the east side of the lot with burms to separate the female from the male and also from the main building. All staff would have to be separated except on the corporate level. He stated that the odds of the Department of Corrections accepting this are very slim. He stated that they are having a meeting on Wednesday, March 22 to decide what course to take. He stated that it would move very fast as everything is due on Friday. Commissioner Lythgoe requested that a meeting be noticed for Thursday, March 23 at 3:00 p.m. so that Mike Rupert could return and advise the board of their decision.

RESOLUTION 07-2006 TO PLACE WEED MILLS ON THE JUNE BALLOT

Commissioner Lythgoe read the document for the board. The floor was opened for discussion. There was none. Commissioner Weber moved to adopt the amended document, Resolution 07-2006. Commissioner Notbohm seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING BOARD

The Commissioners reviewed the two applications for appointment to the Jefferson County Planning Board. The first applicant was Bob Eide and the second was a Joseph H. Schmaus. Commissioner Lythgoe moved that Bob Eide be appointed to the Planning Board. Commissioner Notbohm seconded. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 10-2006 TO ADOPT THE JEFFERSON COUNTY BRIDGE STANDARDS

Commissioner Weber moved to adopt the Jefferson County Bridge Standards as no changes had been proposed or implemented to the draft which was posted in the Clerk & Records Office and on the Jefferson County Website. Commissioner Notbohm seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Lythgoe moved to adjourn. Commissioner Notbohm seconded.

MEETING ADJOURNED

ATTEST:

**BONNIE RAMEY
CLERK AND RECORDER**

TOMAS E. LYTHGOE, CHAIR

CHUCK NOTBOHM, COMMISSIONER

KEN WEBER, COMMISSIONER